

EXHIBIT NO. 8

D.S., ET AL. vs CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK, NICK NICHOLS, ET AL.
Rene A. Reza on 11/21/2024

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
3

4 D.S., a minor by and through his)
guardian ad litem Elsa Acosta,)
5 individually and as successor-in-)
interest to William Salgado; C.S., a)
6 minor by and through his guardian ad)
litem Elsa Acosta, individually and)
7 as successor-in-interest to William)
Salgado; J.S., a minor by and through)
8 her guardian ad litem Elsa Acosta,)
individually and as successor-in-)
9 interest to William Salgado; M.S., a)
minor by and through her guardian ad)
10 litem Elsa Acosta, individually and)
as successor-in-interest to William)
11 Salgado,)
12 Plaintiffs,)
13 vs.) Case No.
2:23-CV-09412-CBM-AGR
14 CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK; NICK NICHOLS,)
RENE REZA; MATTHEW RINCON; APRIL)
15 WHEELER and DOES 5 through inclusive,)
16 Defendants.)
17

18 REMOTE VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF

19 RENE A. REZA

20 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024
21
22

23 Reported Stenographically By:

24 Jinna Grace Kim, CSR No. 14151

25 Job No.: 117558

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14 CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK; NICK NICHOLS,)
RENE REZA; MATTHEW RINCON; APRIL)
15 WHEELER and DOES 5 through inclusive,)
16 Defendants.)

17
18 The remote videoconference deposition of RENE A.
19 REZA, taken on behalf of the Plaintiffs, beginning at 1:28
20 p.m., and ending at 3:10 p.m., on Thursday, November 21,
21 2024, before Jinna Grace Kim, Certified Stenographic
22 Shorthand Reporter No. 14151.

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1 CALIFORNIA

2 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

3 1:28 P.M.

4 RENE A. REZA,

5 called as a witness on behalf of the Plaintiffs, having been
6 first duly sworn remotely via videoconference, was examined
7 and testified as follows:

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. GALIPO:

10 Q. Can you please state your name and spell it for the
11 record.

12 A. My name is Rene Alfonzo Reza, last name is
13 R-e-z-a.

14 Q. Are you able to hear me okay so far?

15 A. I am.

16 Q. And if you have any trouble hearing me at any time,
17 will you please let me know?

18 Is that a yes?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I usually good about an hour and then take a break,
21 but if you need to take a break at anytime before that, you
22 just let me know and we'll take a break at that time.

23 Okay?

24 A. Okay. Sounds good.

25 Q. Who do you currently work for?

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1 A. I currently work for Tustin Police Department.

2 Q. And when did you start with Tustin?

3 A. I started with Tustin in March of this year.

4 Q. Where did you work before that?

5 A. I worked for the Huntington Park Police
6 Department.

7 Q. What time period were you there?

8 A. I was there -- I was hired in September 15, 2021,
9 and I was there until March of this year.

10 Q. When did you go to the academy?

11 A. I went to the academy in August of 2021.

12 Q. And did you work with Huntington Park right out of
13 the academy?

14 A. Yes, I did. I started the academy in September as
15 well. Sorry.

16 Q. That's okay. Let's start from the beginning.
17 When do you think you started the academy?

18 A. Right after I was hired. So in September.

19 Q. Of 2021?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And then when did you graduate from the academy?

22 A. I graduated in March of that year, 2021.

23 Q. So do you think you started in September of 2020 or
24 September of 2021?

25 Because obviously, March would be 2022.

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1 A. Sorry. That was my fault.

2 2020. And then I graduated in 2021.

3 Q. Okay. Are you trying to confuse me already?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Sorry.

7 Q. And then did you have a period of field training
8 after graduating?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. How long was the field training for,
11 approximately?

12 A. Approximately three to four months.

13 Q. And when were you done with field training, like,
14 somewhere in July, approximately?

15 A. Yes. July sounds about accurate.

16 Q. And then when did this incident happen that we're
17 here to talk about?

18 A. It happened on Sunday, October 30, 2022.

19 Q. Do you know about what time the shooting occurred?

20 A. I don't recall. It was in the afternoon, though.
21 I remember that.

22 Q. Did you fire any shots?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. What type of firearm did you fire the shots from?

25 A. A Glock 17, 9-millimeter handgun.

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1 Q. Do you know how many rounds you fired?

2 A. Yes. Five.

3 Q. That's a semiautomatic weapon?

4 A. It is.

5 Q. So you need to press the trigger for each shot?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Before you fired, did you hear any other shots being
8 fired?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. And how many shots did you hear approximately before
11 you fired?

12 A. I heard approximately two shots.

13 Q. Can you tell where they were coming from?

14 A. They were coming from the right, from my right side.
15 So in that complex I would say north.

16 Q. You didn't think Mr. Salgado was firing a firearm,
17 did you?

18 A. No. He was not firing a firearm.

19 Q. Did you ever see a gun on him at any time?

20 A. No.

21 Q. At some point did you see him throw a knife?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. And how much time passed from him throwing the knife
24 to you hearing those two shots to your right?

25 A. I would say approximately 30 seconds.

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1 Q. Do you recall other than your tactical
2 repositioning, the officers slightly advancing towards
3 Mr. Salgado into the courtyard before the shots were fired?

4 A. I don't recall.

5 Q. Were you aware at some point that Sergeant Rodriguez
6 had referenced somebody else having a 40-millimeter, either
7 himself or another officer?

8 A. I don't recall that.

9 Q. Were there times where Mr. Salgado would take a few
10 steps towards the officers and then take a few steps back?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How many times did you see that happen over that
13 approximate half hour?

14 A. Approximately three times. He would make short like
15 bursts towards us like sprinting bursts towards us and then
16 step back.

17 Q. Did you see him making a praying gesture at some
18 point?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. Did you see him making the sign of the cross at some
21 point?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. I take it you had, obviously, training with respect
24 to the use of deadly force?

25 A. Yes, sir.

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1 Q. Were you essentially trained that deadly force
2 should only be used if there is an immediate or imminent
3 threat of death or serious bodily injury?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Essentially, when there are no other reasonable
6 options available?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Were you trained that you're responsible to justify
9 each of your shots?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And were you trained that a warning should be given
12 before using deadly force, a verbal warning, when feasible?

13 A. When feasible, yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay. I think that's all the question I have at
15 this time.

16 MR. GALIPO: I don't know if Christopher has any
17 follow-up or whether you would like to talk to me,
18 Christopher, about any potential follow-up off the record?

19 MR. HENDERSON: Actually, yes.

20 MR. GALIPO: Oh, there he is. I was joking about
21 your creative questioning earlier.

22 MR. HENDERSON: Yes. And I replaced Chris for the
23 transcript maybe about 15 minutes ago.

24 But I don't have any questions.

25 MR. GALIPO: Okay. Ben, do you --

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1 MR. COLVIN: I don't have -- I don't have any
2 questions.

3 MR. GALIPO: Very smart man, Roger.
4 Ben, do you have any questions today?

5 MR. LEVINE: Nothing from me.
6 Thank you, Dale.

7 MR. GALIPO: Okay. Let's go off the record.

8 (Deposition proceeding concluded at 3:10 p.m.)

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1 DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

2

3 Case Name: D.S., a minor et al. vs. City of Huntington Park,
4 et al.

5 Date of Deposition: November 21, 2024

6 Job No.: 117558

7

8 I, _____, hereby certify

9 under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of

10 California that the foregoing is true and correct.

11 Executed this _____ day of _____,

12 20____, at _____, California.

13

14

15

16

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18

RENE A. REZA

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1

CERTIFICATE

2

OF

3

CERTIFIED STENOGRAPHIC SHORTHAND REPORTER

4

5

6

7

I, JINNA GRACE KIM, CSR No. 14151, a Certified
Stenographic Shorthand Reporter of the State of California,
do hereby certify:

8

9

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me
at the time and place herein set forth;

10

11

That any witnesses in the foregoing proceedings,
prior to testifying, were placed under oath;

12

13

14

That a verbatim record of the proceedings was made
by me, using machine shorthand, which was thereafter
transcribed under my direction;

15

16

Further, that the foregoing is an accurate
transcription thereof.

17

18

19

I further certify that I am neither financially
interested in the action, nor a relative or employee of any
attorney of any of the parties.

20

21

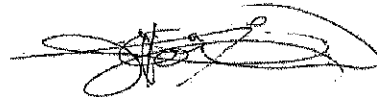
22

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name, this
date: November 21, 2024.

23

24

25



Jinna Grace Kim, CSR No. 14151

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1 DEPOSITION ERRATA SHEET

2 Case Name: D.S., a minor et al. vs. City of Huntington Park,
3 et al.

4 Witness: Rene A. Reza

5 Date of Deposition: November 21, 2024

6 Job No.: 117558

7 Reason Codes: 1. To clarify the record.

8 2. To conform to the facts.

9 3. To correct transcription errors.

10

11 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

12 From _____ To _____

13 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

14 From _____ To _____

15 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

16 From _____ To _____

17 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

18 From _____ To _____

19 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

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25 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

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1 DEPOSITION ERRATA SHEET

2 From _____ To _____

3 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

4 From _____ To _____

5 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

6 From _____ To _____

7 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

8 From _____ To _____

9 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

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12 From _____ To _____

13 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

14 From _____ To _____

15 Page _____ Line _____ Reason _____

16 From _____ To _____

17

18 _____ Subject to the above changes, I certify that the
19 transcript is true and correct.

20 _____ No changes have been made. I certify that the
21 transcript is true and correct.

22

23

24

RENE A. REZA

25